

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 MC-02 ACDA-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 EB-07 COME-00

TRSE-00 /090 W

----- 017221

R 250806Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 498

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMCONSUL MUNICH

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, FR, UR, CI, BU

SUBJECT: ARMS SALES TO CHILE THROUGH BULGARIAN ORGANIZATION

REF: PARIS 27805 (NOTAL)

1. GOB FINALLY ON NOVEMBER 21 WAS CONSTRAINED TO INFORM ITS CITIZENS OF MONTH-OLD ALLEGATIONS IN "LE CANARD ENCHAINE" THAT BULGARIA SOLD SOVIET WEAPONS TO PINOCHET REGIME IN CHILE AND PHALANGISTS IN LEBANON. REVELATION WAS IN FORM OF "ANNOUNCEMENT" OF BTA (BULGARIAN TELEGRAPH AGENCY, OFFICIAL NEWS SERVICE), A DEVICE USED PERIODICALLY FOR STATING OFFICIAL POSITIONS.

2. ANNOUNCEMENT STATED BTA HAD ON OCTOBER 31 REFUTED
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REPEATED STORIES IN "LE CANARD ENCHAINE" AIMED AT

DISCREDITING "CONSISTENT AND PRINCIPLED POLICY" OF BULGARIA. BUT RATHER THAN HOLDING ITS INFORMANTS RESPONSIBLE, PAPER HAD ON NOVEMBER 12 PUBLISHED UNDER THE HEADING "SOFIA'S MISFORTUNES" A "FORGED PRO-FORMA INVOICE" IN ORDER TO "PROVE ITS UNFOUNDED AND FALSE ALLEGATIONS." THEREFORE BTA "IS AUTHORIZED TO DECLARE ONCE AGAIN THAT STORIES "ARE FALSE FROM BEGINNING TO END" AND THAT PRO-FORMA INVOICE IS "GROSS AND VILE FORGERY". ANNOUNCEMENT CALLS ARTICLES CAMPAIGN AIMED AT DIVERTING ATTENTION FROM REAL FRIENDS, PATRONS AND ARMS SUPPLIERS OF CHILEAN JUNTA AND PHALANGISTS, AND "CALUMNIATING PEACEFUL POLICY OF SOCIALIST BULGARIA". ANNOUNCEMENT CONCLUDES THAT "EDITORIAL BOARD OF 'LE CANARD ENCHAINE', OPPONENTS OF INTERNATIONAL DETENTE AND SPIRIT OF HELSINKI, ENEMIES OF PEACE AND SOCIALISM AND SOCIALIST BULGARIA ARE IN NO POSITION TO CONVINCE ANY ONE NO MATTER HOW THEY ASSEMBLE THEIR TALES, LIES, AND FORGERIES."

3. COMMENT: ANNOUNCEMENT, PARTICULARLY REFERENCE TO BTA'S "REFUTATION" ON OCTOBER 31, MUST HAVE PUZZLED BULGARIAN PUBLIC WHICH HAD BEEN KEPT IN DARK AT LEAST BY PUBLIC SOURCES. RFE RESEARCH (BULGARIAN SITUATION REPORT, NOVEMBER 6) HAS NOTED BTA ENGLISH-LANGUAGE BROADCAST ON OCTOBER 31 HAD DENOUNCED ARTICLES AND THIS WAS FOLLOWED ON NOVEMBER 1 BY BULGARIAN VERSION OF THAT BROADCAST IN NEWSCAST "FOR BULGARIANS ABROAD" BY RADIO SOFIA. ONLY APPARENT EXPLANATION FOR DECISION TO INFORM GENERAL PUBLIC NOW IS THAT OFFICIALS WERE CONCERNED -- PROBABLY CORRECTLY -- THAT STORY SEEPING INTO BULGARIA AND THEREFORE MUST BE CONTROVERTED. HERZ

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